

Among the emerging themes that the Board has identified (NSB 1998c) as important in the first decade of the 21st century are:

- ◆ globalization of research and education,
- ◆ access to and impacts of information technologies,
- ◆ environmental research and education,
- ◆ knowledge-based economy,
- ◆ partnerships and linkages,
- ◆ adequacy of the supply of well-trained scientists, engineers, and science teachers,
- ◆ education as a key determinant of social and economic progress,
- ◆ special significance of K through 12 education,
- ◆ public understanding of science and technology, and
- ◆ accountability.

Plans to address these themes are laid out in the NSB Strategic Plan (NSB 1998c). Additionally, several of these themes have been addressed by previous NSB Statements and Occasional Papers; for example:

- ◆ “Science in the International Setting” (NSB 1982),
- ◆ “In Support of Basic Research” (NSB 1993a),
- ◆ “Federal Investments in Science and Engineering” (NSB 1995),
- ◆ U.S. Science and Engineering in a Changing World (NSB 1996b),
- ◆ The Federal Role in Science and Engineering Graduate and Postdoctoral Education (NSB 1997),
- ◆ “Failing Our Children: Implications of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study” (NSB 1998a),
- ◆ “Industry Trends in Research Support and Links to Public Research” (NSB 1998b), and
- ◆ “Revised Interim Report: NSB Environmental Science and Engineering for the 21st Century” (NSB 1999a).

The Board plans to issue additional occasional papers on several of these issues during the next few years.

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